

# BRAINTREE SCHOOL'S

## PARENT GUIDE

TO

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

LEARNING SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN



Designed by

Braintree School  
Nancy S. Frenette, Principal  
Dona Meltzer  
Tom Cooch  
Mary Davis  
Bev Heise, ESS Consultant



As parents,  
you put your heart into wanting your  
child to be happy, healthy, and successful.  
As educators,  
we want your child to be  
happy, healthy and successful!



## BRAINTREE SCHOOL

Helping  
Every Child  
Succeed in School

Our parent guide helps you understand how our school, in collaboration with you and the community provides the necessary supports so all students can succeed and feel good about themselves. This guide contains answers to questions you might have and information about our school and the educational support system.

### WHAT DOES OUR SCHOOL BELIEVE ABOUT LEARNING?

The purpose of elementary education at Braintree School is to enable every child to learn the skills that may be necessary to develop his/her potential and to lead a healthy, happy, knowledgeable life. To accomplish this, our school must provide each child with the basic tools for intellectual development in a stimulating, disciplined, and uninterrupted educational environment that reinforces a child's sense of personal worth. Finally, since parents play a vital role in the education of their children, a spirit of joint cooperation and commitment is essential to accomplish these aims.





## HOW CAN WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER?

Our expectations as a staff are to educate every child to his/her fullest potential. If parents and students share this understanding and embrace the basic mission of our school, we can move forward together to meet this goal. We can cultivate a feeling of cooperation that results in a POSITIVE school climate and a sense of belonging for every student and parent. We encourage your questions, suggestions, volunteer efforts, and genuine concern for our school.

## HOW DOES BRAINTREE SCHOOL SUPPORT STUDENTS?

Braintree School has an Educational Support System (ESS) composed of a range of supports and resources designed to ensure that all students succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. All children learn differently and have different interests. Some children learn with ease while others have more difficulty. Braintree teachers respond to their student's needs within the classroom setting and access the supports and resources of the ESS. One resource in our ESS is the Educational Support Team (EST). When learning difficulties are not significant enough to be considered a disability, children can receive support from the EST.

**"EDUCATION IS A LIFE-LONG JOURNEY..."**



**Help Prepare Our Children Today  
For A Better Tomorrow!"**

### WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS MORE SPECIALIZED SUPPORT?

- Some children require more specialized support beyond EST. If you or the EST suspects your child has a disability, a referral will be made for an evaluation. To be eligible for Special Education services, a student must have an identified disability that adversely affects their education and must need specialized instruction.
- Special education is designed to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education in accordance with State and Federal law. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides protections for families and ensures that eligible students are educated in an appropriate environment.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is intended to protect people with disabilities from discrimination. It assures that students with disabilities have access to all activities and programs of the school and provides necessary supports and accommodations.

The goal is to create students who are the happy, healthy, and successful citizens of today and tomorrow.

### WHAT IS THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM?

The Educational Support Team (EST) is made up of school staff members. Its purpose is to assist classroom teachers and staff in developing a plan that will support a child in the educational program. The EST meets twice a month to discuss students for whom there are concerns and the support and services that are available to help individual children. The EST also helps teachers develop strategies and plans for supporting the child in the classroom. The team meets to see what's working, develop an EST plan, make changes to an existing plan and decide when the EST plan is no longer needed. The EST maintains confidential contact with referral sources, parents, and teachers to follow the progress of each student served by the team.

### HOW CAN A PARENT USE THE EST?

If you notice your child is...

- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Lonely
- ☐ Frustrated
- ☐ Struggling with academics

First talk with the classroom teacher! Together we will go over the concerns and decide the next steps. If either of us would like more help, we can refer to the EST for assistance.



## WHAT IS AN EST PLAN?

An EST Plan is created by the EST and outlines support for your child. Help might include but is not limited to any of the following:

- \* In class help/Accommodations
- \* Working with a class buddy
- \* Title 1 (Reading or Math)
- \* Assistance from the variety of support staff (Teachers, Guidance, School Nurse, Paraeducators, Speech Pathologist, Mentors).
- \* Testing

## WHAT SUPPORTS ARE THERE TO HELP YOUR CHILD?

Research shows that when children know their family and school are working together and care about them, they do better in school. Some supports can be offered at school while others might be right at home or in the community.

### Academic Supports Can Include:

- ┌ Speech & Language Instruction
- ┌ Mentors
- ┌ Libraries (School & Town)
- ┌ Mother/Daughter Book Club
- ┌ FES Kids Club
- ┌ Title Reading/Math Instruction



- ┌ Extra Teacher Time
- ┌ Study Time
- ┌ School Book Fair
- ┌ Small Group Instruction
- ┌ Second Step Social Skill Instruction
- ┌ Special Activities
- ┌ Chandler for Children
- ┌ Summer Enrichment Program
- ┌ Lotus Lake Adventure-Based Learning
- ┌ Artist in Residence
- ┌ Reading Together Time
- ┌ Quiet Spaces for Homework



### Healthy Choices Supports Can Include:

- ┌ School Nature Trail
- ┌ Sports/Recreation Program
- ┌ School/Community Garden
- ┌ Youth Church Groups
- ┌ Swimming Program
- ┌ Winter Equipment Lending Program
- ┌ 4-H Group
- ┌ School Volunteers
- ┌ Family School Coordinator
- ┌ FOBS (Friends of Braintree School)
- ┌ Libraries
- ┌ After School Activities
- ┌ FES Kids Club